

hazard a guess that there is not one member of the House of Representatives who has served in the last 30-plus years who does not know and love Muftiah—whether in her role as a parliamentarian, as a staff member on the Committee on Appropriations, or in her most recent role as the staff director of the Rules Committee. In every instance she brought a fundamental fairness, openmindedness, kindness and an incredible work ethic. She handled herself with the utmost professionalism even in the most trying of circumstances—namely having to deal with the 435 of us, and on occasion having to tell us something we did not want to hear.

As I look back on the words of tribute spoken last week by so many of my colleagues I am most impressed by the fact that those words were all spoken from the heart, as are mine. They were not words of canned praise, nor were they sterile platitudes—they were expressions of genuine friendship and respect. I will not repeat what was said about Muftiah's distinguished career—although it bears remembering. Rather I will share a few reflections from her time working for the Appropriations Committee when I was chairman.

In 2005 during my first year as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, it was Muftiah who patiently schooled me and my staff in the complexities of House Rules as we worked on the 11 appropriations bills that came to the House floor that year. I think it is fair to say that had it not been for Muftiah, we would not have successfully completed our important work in a manner that was open and fair to all the Members. In 2006 I had the good fortune to be able to convince Muftiah to leave the parliamentarian's office and come to work on the Committee on Appropriations. I expect the parliamentarian and his able colleagues might still be angry with me for that, but they have, as usual, been very gracious. While Muftiah knew the rules under which we consider appropriations bills each year better than anyone else on my staff, especially the intricacies of the Budget Act, she did not have a background in the minutia of the appropriations and budgeting process. What she did have—and still does—is an incredibly keen mind and a tenacious work ethic.

I assigned Muftiah to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, the second largest and one of the most important bills that touch the lives of every one of our constituents. As soon as she got there I observed her dig into budgets and programs as if she had been doing it all of her life. She quickly grasped arcane budgetary concepts, made the difficult recommendations that the committee staff must make to Members every day, asked the tough questions that must be asked in order to produce a responsible budget, and mentored younger staff in the rules and procedures of the House. As we knew would happen when she was hired, Muftiah could not learn enough, soaking up every bit of knowledge she could come by.

Now we bid a fond farewell to a loving wife and mother, a fierce friend, a great employee and a true institutionalist when it comes to this House. Muftiah has demonstrated a love and commitment to this institution and to public service that unfortunately we don't see often enough. Her work is an example that all of us should take note of and aspire to emulate. I can think of no greater role model for girls and

young women than Muftiah McCartin—a woman who put herself through law school while holding down a full-time job and raising a family; one who understands that we have far more in common than we have differences; one who never put politics before principle; and a woman who faced every challenge, no matter how difficult, with a smile on her face and a kind word for all. My wife, Arlene, and I wish her all the best in the many years to come.

HONORING MRS. MAY TO

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Mrs. May To, who passed way on May 8, 2010, at the young age of 60. My heart goes out to her husband, Alex To; her sons, Jonathan and Brian To; and the rest of her family, friends and loved ones.

Mrs. To was an extraordinary citizen, an activist for immigrant children, youth and families in the San Gabriel Valley for more than a quarter century. Her volunteerism and service spanned several organizations including the Chinatown Service Center, Alhambra School District and the International Institute of Los Angeles.

Born in Canton, China in 1950, May grew up in Hong Kong, where she completed her bachelor's degree in sociology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1975. She came to the United States on an exchange scholarship to study at UCLA in 1977 and received her master's degree in education in two years.

She spent the late 1970s and early 80s helping her fellow immigrants to make the most of the opportunities provided by her adopted country, teaching ESL courses to fifth-graders and serving as assistant director of The Chinatown Service Center, where she oversaw refugee employment, social service and youth programs among others.

In 1984, May worked with the Asian Task Force of the United Way to create the Asian Youth Center, which was meant to fill a gap in critical services for immigrant children, youth and families in the San Gabriel Valley. In 1984, she became the Center's Executive Director.

Since then and under her leadership, Asian Youth Center has grown from a three-person project to a large, community-based organization with a budget of over \$1.7 million and a 57-person staff, serving more than 8,500 Asian and non-Asian children, youth and families.

May's tireless efforts have helped shape the Asian American, Latino American, and other immigrant communities residing in the San Gabriel Valley. Her commitment to improving access to health services, social services, and youth development opportunities for immigrants have improved the lives of countless children, youth and families over the last 20 years.

I urge my House colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. May To for her stellar record of personal, professional and civic leadership, her indomitable spirit and her remarkable serv-

ice and contributions to her community and to our nation.

317TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL AND CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, for the past 48 years, members of this great government have taken pause to honor law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty. Remembering the sacrifice of their fallen brethren, the men and women of the 317th Military Police Battalion gathered to hold their annual Law Enforcement Memorial and Candlelight Vigil.

I am proud to join with them as they pay tribute to the last great offering of freedom given by thirty-eight United States Army soldiers, eight United States Air Force airmen, eight United States Navy sailors, five United States Marine Corp Marines, and four civilian police professionals. As the roll was called and Taps played, the 317th memorialized those who fulfilled their mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Bannered this event the words from Tacitus: "In valor, there is hope." I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking those who protect the liberties of this great Nation. May these words from ancient Rome remind us all of our duty to service, and may they offer us a light of gratitude for those whose service does not lead them home.

SECTION 45G SHORT LINE RAILROAD TAX CREDIT

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support the extension of the Section 45G Short Line Railroad Tax Credit.

The Section 45G Short Line Railroad Tax Credit expired on December 31, 2009 and has yet to be extended. Because this credit has not been renewed, the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad, a 165 mile short line railroad in my district, has been unable to move forward on necessary infrastructure improvements. The St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad provides rail freight service through towns like Lewiston-Auburn, Mechanic Falls and Bethel in my district. An extension of the Section 45G tax credit will ensure that they can continue to put Mainers to work making the track improvements necessary to serve communities throughout Maine.

Many businesses in my district use the St. Lawrence & Atlantic to connect to the national freight rail network. An extension of the Section 45G tax credit will help short line railroads make the improvements necessary to continue connecting Maine businesses with the national rail network, aiding economic development efforts and promoting business growth throughout Maine.

Nationally, the Section 45G tax credit generates 3,305 full-time jobs nationwide each year. This does not include the tens of thousands of jobs in the American steel and timber industries that produce the raw materials necessary to make the track improvements. It is imperative that the House and the Senate come to an agreement so that we can get railroad employees back to work and make sure that the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad continues to operate smoothly.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the extension of the Section 45G Short Line Railroad Tax Credit.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS
TESHARA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Tom Teshara, a San Francisco native who has been responsible for mentoring and recruiting hundreds of women and men for admission to the United States Naval Academy. Starting in 1966 as a volunteer Tom personally recruited 82 young men who were accepted by the Academy during a 4-year period. In 1972 the Academy's Candidate Guidance Office established a West Coast branch office and named Tom as its first director with responsibility for ten Western states. At one time there were 1,049 Midshipmen enrolled at the Academy from these ten Western States. Before his recent retirement Tom led a network of 125 Academy Information Officers who counseled about 6,000 candidates annually.

Tom Teshara's work involved many evenings and weekends where he represented the Academy at area school events. He founded the USNA Parents Club and coordinated all club activities. When midshipmen returned home for the holidays, it was Tom who arranged for new candidates and their parents to sit down and discuss the Academy experience with the midshipmen. It is commonly accepted that no other person in the country has recruited more candidates for the Naval Academy than Tom Teshara.

Tom, born in 1927, was drafted out of high school by the U.S. Army where he served for 13 months before another draft of sorts—he signed a baseball contract with the San Francisco Seals where he played second base in the minor league system. His interest in sports has continued through the years. He founded the PeeWee Training League in the South San Francisco/San Bruno area and was athletic director at St. Veronica's School for nine years while playing semipro baseball.

Tom Teshara and his wife, Jeannine, were married in October 1949. They have a son, Steve, and a daughter, Debra, and two granddaughters. Madam Speaker, Tom's family has every right to be proud of his efforts of the past 50 years to bring the best and the brightest young women and men into service for our country. He deserves a big salute from all of us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed for votes in the House chamber yesterday, May 18, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 273.

THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF
THE END OF THE SRI LANKAN
CIVIL WAR

HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today marks the one-year anniversary of the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka, which is a reason to be hopeful about the future of Sri Lanka. However, I also rise to voice my concern for a community at risk. The viability of a traditionally Tamil region in Sri Lanka is under threat. Since the beginning of the war, one third of the Tamil population was driven off the island and many more were displaced. A large area in the north central part of the island that was a predominantly Tamil area is now almost devoid of Tamils. According to the United Nations, more than 60 percent of homes in the north have been seriously damaged by the fighting. To make matters worse, many Sinhalese families moved into traditional Tamil areas while Tamil inhabitants were kept in detention camps following the end of the war. Finally, Tamil homes, churches, temples and cemeteries were destroyed during the war with no assurance from the Sri Lankan Government that they will be rebuilt. Sri Lanka's Tamil population is in danger of losing their identity and their traditional homeland. The United Nations has warned that "donor fatigue" in Sri Lanka has resulted in the United Nations receiving only 24 percent of the donor funds it needs to help displaced Tamils. Madam Speaker, I urge the international community to renew their efforts and take action so the Tamil culture and history is not lost.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, on May 18, 2010, I was unavoidably unable to cast my votes for Rollcall 273, Rollcall 274 and Rollcall 275. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 24, TO REDESIGNATE THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 24, a bill to redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps. This legislation was passed out of this chamber on a voice vote yesterday. Had a recorded vote been requested on the bill, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have cast a vote in opposition.

I have been a member of the United States Navy for more than 15 years and I am proud to be one of three Members of Congress still serving in the Navy Reserve.

Not a day goes by that I don't recognize the sacrifices the brave men and women of the Marine Corps have made in service to our country. Frankly, there isn't a sight that brings more fear to our enemy than that of an approaching line of determined Marines with a mission to execute.

Past, present and future Marines should certainly be proud of the Corps, but also of the Department of the Navy. The Marine Corps was, is, and should remain, part of the Navy, both in name and in mission. A name change at the Department level will do nothing but foster animosity in the ranks of the Navy and Marine Corps. We should focus instead on the fight at hand and not worry about a change in nomenclature. Unfortunately, the spirit of H.R. 24 is counter to that notion.

Changing the name of the Department of Navy would cast away over 200 years of tradition. Our founding fathers created the Department of the Navy in 1798. Passing legislation by voice vote that simply does away with the name "United States Department of the Navy" is a disservice to the history of the Department and its various components. Millions of sailors and Marines have been killed or maimed in service to our Nation as part of the Department of the Navy. That name meant something to them and it should to all of us as well.

As the esteemed body on the other side of this building considers this bill, I hope that it will examine all potential repercussions. Namely, they should consider the traditions the United States Navy holds dear.

I encourage my fellow statesmen to speak both with Navy leadership and Navy veterans in their district before casting a vote in support of this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

For Wednesday, March 24, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 183, on motion to suspend the